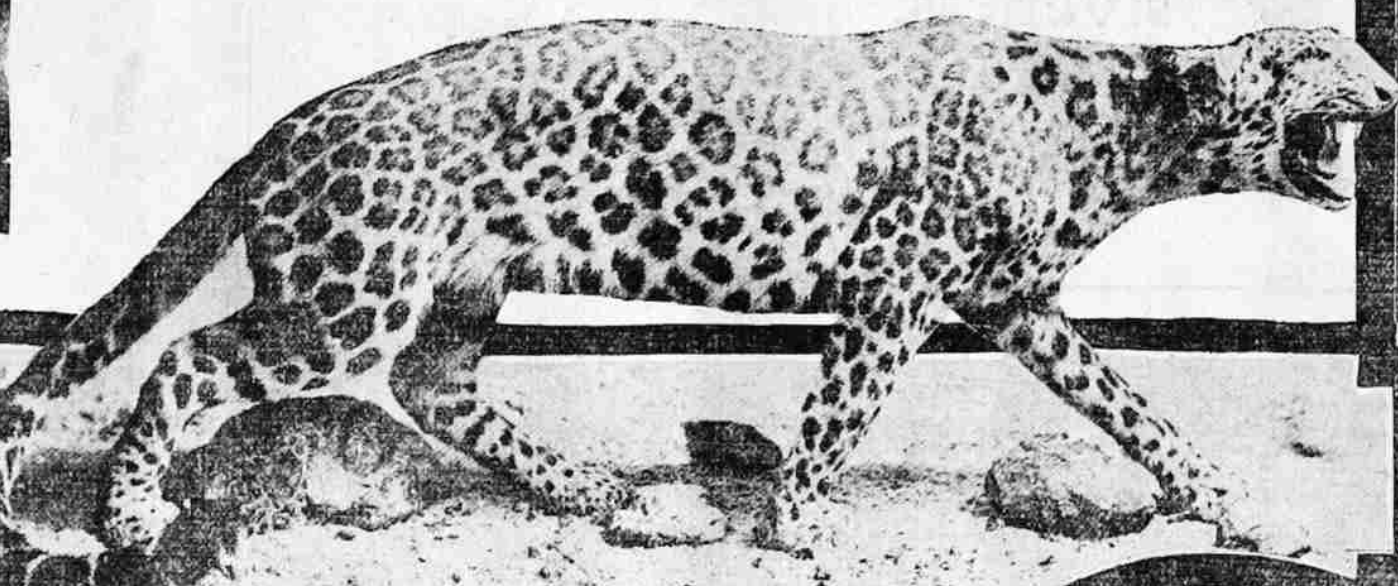


# Slaying The Innocents To Aid WOMAN'S BEAUTY

Millions of Wild Little Animals Will Be Killed in the Forests and Along the Streams of the Continent This Winter So There Will Be Plenty of Fur Coats and Muffs Next Year.



A little fox was frisking about the trees in a forest in Western Canada one bright winter day. He was well supplied with fur and didn't mind the cold.

At night when he lay down to rest he curled himself up with his nose covered by his bushy tail and felt perfectly warm. By day he hunted for provisions with his partners and played in the woods until he happened to step on something he didn't know about.

Snap, went a trap where he had stepped and he was held fast. An hour later a trapper coming by glanced over his prize. The animal was a silver fox and his skin was worth \$1,000 at the nearest trading post. His skin was sent to the market and in a few months a woman was wearing it.

But the story of the silver fox is the story of most of the other animals of the wild. Natural death to them does not consist of being surrounded by a lot of mourning relatives. Few there are, indeed, that live to a ripe old age and die in peace at home. Usually they are trapped or shot by the hunter and finally their skins go to keep men and women warm.

This winter millions of animals will be shot. More than 1,000,000 men and boys will participate in the slaughter. Great fortunes in trapping are made today just as they were in the early days of the Hudson Bay Fur Company when the Astors and others grew rich on the catches of the wild. While some kinds of furs are scarce and constantly growing scarcer, the total value of fur brought to market each year is constantly increasing.

As men formerly made a living by trapping, so they do today. In addition to the professional trappers there are thousands upon thousands in every State of the union and of every province of Canada who trap in winter.

In almost every State there can be found the raccoon, opossum, mink, skunk and other kinds of fur-bearing animals. Animals which once were not considered as fur-bearing animals are now caught and their furs are used extensively. Modern ways of preparation of the hides and the big demand for furs has caused former supposedly poor grade to be more highly regarded.

Along nearly all the North American streams muskrat can be found. Thousands of boys, eager to earn a few cents, will work to trap them this winter. When caught the skins are sold to a local dealer or are shipped to some great fur market.

The greatest primary fur market of the world is St. Louis. More than 1,000,000 trappers send furs direct to St. Louis houses. One fur house in St. Louis alone sent out 330,000 pieces of advertising matter, catalogues, mailing tags and price lists in one day at the opening of the fur season in 1913.

## LITTLE TRADING POST BECOMES FUR CENTER.

St. Louis started as a great fur center when it was first established as a trading post, 150 years ago. The trappers from all over the Northwest came there to trade with the early French traders. The trade was pushed into Canada and Alaska and Mexico.

From 65 to 75 per cent of all the furs caught in North America are brought to St. Louis fur dealers. From 5,000 to 7,000 separate shipments of furs are received daily by the St. Louis houses. The value of furs brought to the St. Louis market in a year is estimated at \$16,000,000.

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The furs come by express or parcel post or by fast freight. The United States Government, recognizing St. Louis as the leading market for furs of the world, this year handled its Alaskan output of seals in St. Louis. Formerly the government auctioned the seals in Europe.

Buyers from every fur manufacturing country of Europe come to St. Louis to buy furs. In the primary fur houses the raw furs are sold to brokers at auction. They in turn send them to the manufacturer, from whence they are distributed through the wholesale houses to the retailer, where the final buyer gets a chance at them in the form of coats, muffs, caps and the like.

The trapping of animals is an alluring task. For that reason farmers boys often take it up. The cunning of man is pitted against the cunning of the wild animal and the animal often proves to be more cunning than the man.

Here are some of the trapping methods for different animals, as prepared by one of the most skilled trappers of the country for the information of amateurs:

"For trapping raccoon find where the animals are traveling and set the trap near the trail, not directly in it, but from one to ten feet away, near a bush, log or stump, to which fasten the bait in such a way that the animals will have to pass over the trap to get to the bait. Put trap in an open place if the surroundings will allow. Fasten the chain from trap if possible, dig a small trench for chain about three inches deep, dig a place for trap so it will be about half an inch below the surface of the level ground. See that the pan is working freely and that it has plenty of room to go, then take some dry horse manure, rub it in your hands until it is thoroughly pulverized, put it around the pan of trap (it will not clog trap if properly pulverized), then cover all of trap and chain with fresh dirt or sand to level of the ground, put your bait back of trap on the log, bush or stump. Use a piece of bird, fish or candy.

## LOOK FOR TRACKS IN TRAPPING GAME.

"For trapping mink locate the tracks. Almost invariably they are in or near water, of course, going across country from one stream to another. It is always well to look close to creeks or small branches for their tracks. Another invariable

habit of the mink which must be borne in mind is that of following the same beaten trail; this trail or runway is not easy to locate; one must look closely and carefully for it. The mink stays in water as much as he does on land, having regular places for entering and leaving the water, which must be carefully located. When you find a trail, select the best place right across it (near the water) to make a set. Provide yourself with a number of small, sharpened stakes (taking care to remove all shavings from them some distance from trap), making as few tracks as possible around the trap. Next place trap on the ground, marking its exact shape thereon with your knife, then remove it and carefully scrape the earth out of the place marked until the trap fits into it,

and is perfectly level with the surface. Cover the spring of the trap with the loose particles of earth and the pan cover carefully with old leaves or moss, the stems of which always remove so there be no interference with the swift and sure springing of the jaws. Now, just above pan of trap and to the sides about five or six inches distant, place the small stakes, leaving about 1 1/2 inches between each one; place the bait within the stakes close to pan of trap (stakes should not be too close together to permit minks taking bait from outside) so in crossing for the bait, the mink must step on trap, thus making the set a very successful one. Lengthen chain of trap with a piece of wire and fasten to a root or a strong driven stake near the water, so that the mink may have greater length

of chain and upon dashing for water when caught drown quickly, thus lessening chances of escape.

"For trapping skunk, first find where the animal makes its den, then set trap just inside entrance, cover it over with leaves, having it stapled to a good sized chunk of wood; then lay a little chunk of wood just behind the spring, so the animal will have to step over this before going in or out of den.

"A common method of trapping the muskrat is to locate their slides on bank and set trap in water directly beneath slides. Trap should be about two inches under water.

When the furs are brought to the market they are first given to the grader. These men are skilled in the value of furs so that a glance or a touch will tell the value. A fur that is cut is less valuable than

a whole fur. A skunk fur in solid black will bring many times more money than one with many white spots. These fur graders run over the pelts, hurriedly sorting them and naming their value. They are then placed in separate piles and are ready for the auction.

With the decrease in the wild fur animal fur raising has proven highly profitable. In Canada silver foxes are raised successfully. One poor farmer a few years ago started in with a pair of silver foxes and now has a fortune.

Silver fox hides are the most valuable of all furs. The highest price ever paid for a silver fox skin was \$2,800. Many silver fox skins bring more than \$1,000 each.

Fur farmers have the advantage of ordinary trappers. They can breed their animals and develop higher strains. The conditions in nature are approached as nearly as possible except that the animals are fenced in.

The business of raising foxes for their furs has developed wonderfully in Eastern Canada. Prices paid for the specimens of black and silver fox seem fabulous. It is reported on good authority that \$10,000 to \$15,000 is no uncommon price for good pairs, a male and female.

This is not so unreasonable when the value of the skins are taken into consideration, and proportionately would only mean \$40 to \$60 for a pair of mink; the skins of which would bring \$5 to \$7 each.

Black, silver and cross foxes are valuable and it seems that financial success has been made where companies have been formed. The man in charge, however, must be a person who knows the nature and habits of the animals. Recently some are experimenting with Arctic—white and blue—foxes.

A good many attempts were made at raising skunks, a number of years ago, most of which were failures. Some entered the business on a large scale, knowing nothing of the animals, and of course failed; others "penned up" a few skunks and as they were not properly cared for, failure was the result.

## SKUNKS WILL BE RAISED AT PROFIT.

The advanced price for skunk skins in recent years, has caused a revival in their raising. This time, an entirely different class of people are taking up the work, and they are going to succeed. Why? Because they know something of the animal and are going at the business in a calm and business-like way.

Mink, at present prices, look good

to the fur-farmer. They are small animals, but yield a pelt worth \$3 to \$7, \$8 or occasionally \$10, depending upon the size and color. Raccoon and opossum are compared with many fur-bearing animals as producers of cheap furs. This is true, but at the same time, they offer the most promising future of the fur-farmer in many localities, especially the South and central sections. Opossum can not stand severe cold weather. They are easily raised, and in addition to their fur, the carcass finds a ready sale in most cities.

Opossum and coon will not dig deep, seeking escape, but are good climbers, and considerable precaution should be taken to see that the wire netting is either extended in several feet at the top, or that a strip of tin a couple of feet wide is fastened to the posts some three feet from the ground.

The fur-farmer, should the market be low for certain animals, can keep over, or the better plan would no doubt be to kill off the surplus males and perhaps some females.

The ox, horse or sheep were all wild at one time, but they have become domesticated. Why not the same with a fur-bearer? This is exactly what should be done. Skunks, especially, are very easily domesticated, and other fur-bearers, such as coons, mink and opossums, soon lose much of their fear.

When the raiser learns this and furnishes a large enclosure with dens and food similar to that which they get when in their wild state, they will be on the road to success. As one raiser says: "They do well in a semi-wild state." If the enclosure is too small, fleas, ticks, and other parasites are a great enemy to the animals. In a large enclosure the animals are more "at home" although at first they are restless and will walk around seeking a way to escape, that is, they try to escape at night. They are seldom, if ever, seen during the day when first let loose in the enclosure; they generally go into the first den that has been prepared for them.

Water is important. If you are raising skunks, "yes or opossums, water for drinking is all that is required; the same is the case with the coon, although they will do best where they have water to wade, play and search for food. Muskrats, otters, beavers and mink must have water to swim and play in, as well as to drink, or they cannot be raised. The enclosure for mink and muskrats should include a stream of running water if possible, or a pond of pure water. The same conditions apply to otters and beavers.

The thousands of small lakes, ponds, etc., offer a splendid opportunity for the successful raising of muskrats. Many owners of such, today, in their natural condition or without any fence, are reaping a profitable and furry harvest; yet there are additional hundreds that by building a fence around, would soon have a muskrat lake or pond worth a great deal. Muskrats are fond of their homes and often remain at the same location for years.